

2. IN THE CLAIMSClaim 1 (Currently Amended):

A dressing for absorbing biological fluids, comprising:
a superabsorbent polymer matrix having an enhanced surface area; and
a plurality of antimicrobial compounds wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds comprises a polymer of said antimicrobial compounds coupled by non-siloxane bonds to said polymer matrix.

Claim 2 (Original):

A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds comprise quaternary ammonium compounds.

Claim 3 (Original):

A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial compounds comprise chain-like structures tethered at one end to said polymer matrix.

Claim 4 (Original):

A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds are non-ionic compounds.

Claim 5 (Original):

A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a sanitary pad.

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Claim 6 (Original):

A dressing, as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a tampon.

Claim 7 (Original):

A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a bandage.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):

A method for fabricating an intrinsically antimicrobial absorbent dressing comprising the steps of:

forming a superabsorbent synthetic polymer matrix having an enhanced surface area; and
attaching by non-siloxane bonds a plurality of antimicrobial compounds to the enhanced
surface area of said polymer matrix wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds
comprises a polymer of said antimicrobial compounds.